



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS—A Textbook for Students and Practitioners of Medicine—Second Edition.** Arthur Grollman, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Experimental Medicine, Lecturer in Pharmacology and Toxicology, Southwestern Medical School, University of Texas. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1954. 866 pages, 127 illustrations, \$10.00.

The general style of Cushny's original textbook on pharmacology has been continued in this second edition of Professor Grollman's excellent book. An outstanding improvement over Cushny's organization of topics is placing locally acting drugs, the effects of which in most instances are poorly understood, to a position in the book following the discussion of drugs with well established pharmacodynamic effects. Under the old Cushny plan, the student was introduced to pharmacology by a discussion of locally acting drugs, such as irritants and protective agents, with the result that he often lost interest and direction at the beginning of the course of study. Grollman starts the discussion of specific drugs with the general anesthetics with which most students already have some acquaintance and which have a dramatic action. He makes the pedagogic mistake, however, of a too detailed introductory chapter on general principles which the student can not understand until he has specific acquaintance with several types of drugs. It is to be hoped that most instructors who use this fine book will not bore their students with the introductory chapter at the outset, but will use Chapter 1 piecemeal as the occasion arises during the discussion of specific drugs. For example, dosage rules can be discussed in connection with Morphine and Other Opium Alkaloids (Chapter 4) to much greater advantage than at the beginning of the course. Likewise, each method of administration should be discussed at the time that the first drug requiring the method is discussed. Thus, administration by inhalation should be discussed in connection with general anesthetics, oral administration, distribution and metabolism under alcohol, hypodermic administration under morphine, etc. The same applies to the various types of pharmaceutical preparations. In other words, the pedagogic principle of going from the specific to the general should be followed. For reference purposes, most of the material in the Introduction would be placed to better advantage in a closing chapter on principles.

In the preparation of this book, Grollman has drawn upon his extensive personal experience in both clinic and laboratory, as well as his familiarity with the pertinent literature. Many of the illustrations are from his own records. Few authors have such a dual experience as both laboratory scientist and clinician. This experience has permitted the author to select in most instances the right laboratory evidence and principles of pharmacology for understanding the clinical uses of drugs, with excellent figures and graphs to show how drugs act. The book is of interest, therefore, to student, clinician, and laboratory investigator and the

teacher should have no difficulty in maintaining student interest in the subject matter.

Grollman's *Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, in its 866 pages, contains 32 chapters, two appendices and a well organized index. Chapter 1 is the introductory chapter on principles of pharmacology and therapeutics, with definitions. Chapter 2 discusses inhalation anesthetics, Chapter 3 is a thoroughgoing description of the effects of alcohol, and opium alkaloids, synthetic analgetics (Grollman prefers the spelling "analgesic"), hypnotics and sedatives and the anti-convulsants make up the subject matter of chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7. Central nervous system stimulants (except amphetamine and methamphetamine) are compressed into Chapter 8. Chapter 9 contains several well-drawn illustrations of autonomic neuroeffector pathways and a general discussion of autonomic pharmacology, which sets the stage for the next six chapters on epinephrine, ergot, acetylcholine, physostigmine, atropine, nicotine, quaternary ganglionic depressants, histamine and the antihistaminics and related compounds. Then follow chapters on local anesthetics, cardiovascular drugs, gastrointestinal drugs, diuretics, an introductory chapter on chemotherapy, the sulfanamides, antibiotics, antimalarials, amebicidal drugs, local antiseptics, hormones, vitamins, hematopoietic agents, coagulants and anticoagulants, antihematopoietic drugs, water, ions and gases, metalloids, heavy metals, immunizing preparations, protein hydrolysates and diagnostic agents. Prescription writing is adequately discussed in the six pages of Appendix A. Appendix B is entitled "Classification of Drugs According to Their Therapeutic Uses"; this is helpful to the physician in selecting a drug for a particular therapeutic indication.

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**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY.** E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine; Director, Cardiovascular Laboratory, University of Kansas Medical Center. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1954. 261 pages, 272 illustrations, \$14.00.

*Electrocardiography* by E. Grey Dimond, M.D., is the first edition of a textbook proposed as a new method of teaching "blackboard electrocardiography" for the general practitioner and medical student. Dr. Dimond contends that electrocardiographic teaching of beginners can best be accomplished by a series of organized lectures and not by "bedside teaching"; accordingly, this book represents such a series of lectures. Many teachers in the field of electrocardiography would not agree with this basic premise.

The section on electrocardiographic machine artifacts is a valuable one for the beginner and the problems in the technique of taking a record are well summarized; unfortunately, no mention is made nor illustrations shown of errors in placement of extremity electrodes. The chapter on vectors is very well illustrated. Throughout the book references are appropriately inserted in the text itself rather than at the close of chapters.